



THE SMOKE SIGNAL

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services

Spring/Summer 2004

...OUT WITH THE OLD...

....and in with the new! On March 1, the first shipment of 4 Custom Cab Pierce Dash engines arrived at Cobb Fire. This is the first of 20 new engines that will be put into service this year.

These engines will have seating for 6 personnel, and are equipped with a 1500 GPM Waterous Pump, Detroit Series 60-475 HP engine, and a 750 gallon booster tank.

Fire Department Adjutant Lieutenants Dan Dupree and Scott Allison accompanied Apparatus Maintenance Section Commander Joe Davidson to Appleton, Wisconsin in February to perform a final inspection on the first 4 engines prior to delivery.



The first shipment of Cobb Fire's engines ready to roll out from the Pierce factory in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Plans for the 4 phases of apparatus assignment and the delivery dates are:

Phase 1 (early March)
Stations 1, 9, 10, and 7.

Phase 2 (mid-March)
Stations 3, 19, 22, and 24.

Phase 3 (early April)
Stations 2, 8, 22, and 24.

Phase 4 (late August)
Stations 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 16, 18, and 20.

These engines follow the recent acquisition of the 2003 Sutphen Custom 70-foot Platform Ladder Truck, which replaced a 1968 model reserve ladder. Another 100-foot Ladder has also been recently purchased, along with two new Rescue Vehicles.

A Special Medical Operations Vehicle was delivered on April 4. This vehicle is quite similar to the 900 Command Vehicle, and is a 39-foot MT-55, built by LDV in Burlington, Wisconsin. Purchased with Homeland Security grant funds through the Office of Domestic Preparedness, it will be equipped with a Stryker MX-PRO Bariatric Stretcher and other specialized EMS equipment to be used in medical support operations that involve command, triage, quarantine, and treatment functions in mid-to-large-scale incidents.

This Special Medic Ops Vehicle is the first of its kind in the United States, and will have multiple applications. The vehicle will be capable of providing medical support, rehab, command, and immediate treatment of patients and first responders on scenes.

Other items scheduled for delivery under the ODP Homeland Security grant program includes:

A Web-based Emergency Operations System to be installed in the EOC.

Three CEMA functional exercises to be conducted at critical facilities in Cobb County this year.

One Hazardous Materials 6-person Custom Cab Tractor/Trailer Unit. The cab and chassis will be a Spartan Motors Flat Floor Gladiator Classic, 20-foot raised roof, with an aluminum tilt cab.

\$101,788 for Haz Mat equipment.

Cobb Fire was also awarded funding in the 2003 FEMA/USFA Assistance to Firefighters grant program (also known as the "Fire Act Grant") to purchase a Citizen's Safety and Emergency Preparedness All-Hazards and Fire Safety Trailer. This high-tech unit will be able to simulate tornadoes, fires, and other types of emergencies that citizens may encounter. The anticipated time of delivery for this 37-foot trailer is late summer 2004.

With the approval of these grant applications and purchases with Cobb Fire funds, the County Manager and Board of Commissioners continue to support our top priorities: safety, efficiency, and employee professional development.



Joe Davidson and Dan Dupree inspect the cab interior on one of the new Pierce engines.



Deputy Chief Sam Heaton and EMS Division Chief Chuck Baird perform the delivery inspection on the Special Medical Operations Vehicle.

PERSONNEL CORNER

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Complimentary copies are distributed to all Cobb Fire and Public Safety facilities, and placed under the Fire Administration Common Files under "Smoke Signal".

This issue will also be uploaded to our website: www.cobbfire.org

The Smoke Signal is for employees and friends of Cobb Fire. If you would like to see a subject covered in future issues or would like to submit items for possible future publication, please forward to Ellen Black at Fire Headquarters.

Editors:

Ellen Black
Chief Rebecca Denlinger
Mary Dowda
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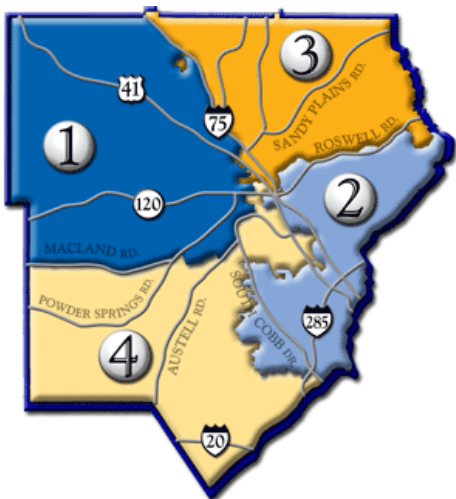
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 Joe L. Thompson, District 2 Commissioner
 Tim Lee, District 3 Commissioner
 G. Woody Thompson, District 4 Commissioner



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

RETIREMENTS

(From May '03 to May '04)

Danny J. Campbell

Firefighter II
 Retired 04-30-04

Bill Goodson

Division Chief/Fire Marshal
 Retired 04-01-04

Greg Moore

Fire Engineer
 Retired 08-28-03

E. Lemuel Riley

Fire Engineer
 Retired 03-31-04

Thanks to each of you for all your years of dedicated service!

2004 ROOKIE SCHOOL

Ronald J. Addison
Michael R. Barnett
Thomas J. Baxter
Michael L. Beekman
Christopher K. Burke
Kelly E. Bussell
Clark V. Kelly
Lonnie J. Chingwa
Daniel L. Collini
Christopher B. Crews
Clifford Ealey, Jr.
David P. Gentile
Gregory G. Gober
Juan C. Jacquez
Anthony B. Martin
Samuel K. Sanders
Daniel R. Seedorf
Jarrel H. Hakim
Darrell T. Sprattling
James J. Travers
Pharoah S. Ware



The 2004 Recruit School at a controlled house burn training exercise in April.

PROMOTIONS

(May '03 to April '04)

Tom Simler

Division Chief/Fire Marshal

David Hosey

Fire Engineer

Jay Westbrook

Captain

Steve Lester

Lieutenant

Paul Bacchus

Fire Engineer

David MacDonald

Fire Engineer

Shane Roland

Fire Engineer

Donnie Shumate

Fire Engineer

Keith Tatum

Fire Engineer

Ed Townsend

Fire Engineer

Joseph Bryant

Fire Engineer

Carl Schwenk

Lieutenant

John Ferro

Fire Engineer

Chuck Baird

Division Chief

John Conniff

Lieutenant

David Solis

Fire Engineer

STAR OF LIFE AWARDS

(continued from page 4)

Danny Jordan	William Johnson
Terry Kraker	John Herman
Kerry Lambert	Henry Stoyer
Trevor Levy	Patrick Harrelson
Jereniah Lewis	
Jeff McCloud	
Raymond Burd	
Bob Dyer	
Tom Covington	
Matt Grimes	
David Honea	



Raymond Burd, Jeff Hamby, and Chris Starnes at the February Promotional Ceremony.

IN THE NEWS:

On April 21, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson made a stop at Station 8 in Kennesaw to announce that Georgia will soon receive Round 3 grant funding from the Office of Domestic Preparedness.

As in the previous rounds, agencies must make application for qualifying equipment and programs. This additional \$55 million is part of the \$13 billion in direct grant money that has been awarded to state and local agencies since the 9/11 attacks. Making the announcement, Hutchinson stated that his office is committed to, "...doing everything possible to be sure that the money gets to the first responders; they are the first to arrive, and the last to leave."



Asa Hutchinson holds a brief press conference at Station 8. He is flanked by Cobb Police Chief Lee New, DPS Director Mickey Lloyd, County Manager David Hankerson, and Cobb Fire Chief Becky Denlinger.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS by Lt. Jeff Moss

First of all, I would like to thank all of you who provided responses to the questions. These topics certainly created a stir in many peoples' thoughts and emotions. I have read each person's reply, and included them in this column. You are still anonymous as promised! If you have any other future submissions, please send them to me at Station 23 "A" Shift.

Regarding the question of "Tradition" in the Fire Department, this question by far elicited the most thought-provoking responses. There was a wide range of answers.

What do you think of the notion that "Tradition" no longer exists in Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services?

By far, the most-mentioned factor was the lack of company pride. Many spoke of the lack of company patches, logos, and t-shirts. Most responses mentioned that it would not be used to divide stations, but more so to create a sense of belonging to a smaller unit, such as in the Military. Mention was made of past and present crews not displayed in the stations. Also voiced was the frequent transfers of personnel, creating a barrier to crews becoming close as a unit.

The Nepotism Policy came in a close second in the number of responses; I guess that one is self-explanatory.

The need for more Department/Company/Battalion outings and activities was also talked about a great deal.

What makes us "professional"?

The easy winner of this question was our attitude in public. Polite and courteous treatment and interaction with citizens was consistently mentioned. I guess the County's commitment to "Customer Service" covers this.

Second in responses was being well dressed and groomed.

A close third was our training and overall ability to do a good job.

After reading all of the responses and spending a good deal of time compiling the answers, I have some final thoughts derived from the many people who took part in this. While it may not mean much to some, I hope it will make a

difference to others.

What is tradition? Is it the rookie station raising and lowering the flag each shift? Is it the promotional dinner at the station? Is it a long mustache? Is it family members all working for the same Fire Department? Is it bagpipes at a funeral? Is it a leather "New Yorker" helmet or painting fire hydrants? (hated to see that one go, huh?) Maybe it's falling beds when you lay down at night and hearing all the laughter in the bunk room, playing wiffle ball in the parking lot, annual fishing and hunting trips, kidnapping the dog at Station 1, Playstation all night long, having rookies do radio watch the entire night of their first shift. Maybe it's T.A. Morris, Pug and Quincy Austin, Randy Lewis, Chief Hilton, Hook Gresham, Dennis Arrington, Rusty Dickerson....do these people represent tradition? For you it might be all or none of the above. I guess what I'm saying is that based on all of the responses, there is no one certain thing that represents tradition to all of us. If it isn't here anymore, then where did it go? Did Management take it away? Did it retire with some of the old guys? I don't think it did.

I believe that tradition is what WE make it. It's a feeling inside each of us, having come from different things, but is all the same in the end. It's a feeling that comes from the pride of belonging to a group that remembers and respects its past and at the same time cares deeply about its future. Your "group" could be the Fire Services as a whole. It could be belonging to Cobb County Fire or being a Paramedic/Smoke Diver/Haz Mat/Squad Member. It could be your battalion, shift, or station. Whatever tradition is to you, it does still exist. The only way it can die is if we let it. We make the decision every day and no memo, policy, or rule can dictate it.

Having tradition doesn't mean we never progress as a department, but rather that we learn from the trial and errors of those who came before. We keep the good and change the bad. We must respect the work that got us here. We are each creating someone's tradition the same as someone created ours. Remember the feeling of being "taken under the wing" by one of the veterans? You should tell the stories of the past to the new guys. Teach them little trade

secrets that someone taught you rather than just making fun of them or getting mad.

Get to know your crews, and even their families. Do you know the names of all your crews' spouses and children? Do you know your crews' hobbies and pastimes? Do you support your crews and rookies by attending the awards banquets? Do you support the veterans by attending the retirement receptions and luncheons? Let me say that I am the first to admit guilt of not doing enough of these things, and I am sorry about that. I guess that's what possessed me to write this column.

I grew up around this department when my father worked here. I had the privilege of seeing how they all really viewed the department as a "family" and genuinely looked out for and supported one another. If we have tradition, it simply means we care about our profession and more importantly, about each other.

One of the best stories I heard lately was from Capt. Stoney Bowles. He spoke of being on a fire all night long. When he returned to the station late after shift change, Steve Pitts had cooked breakfast for Stoney's entire crew. He talked about how much it meant to all of them. I stopped and considered how I wouldn't have thought of that, and I was ashamed. What a great thing to do! I have been here for 15 years now, and I wonder sometimes what will be said about me when I'm gone. How will you be remembered? You should all think about that one for a while.

I challenge each of you to consider what tradition is, and make it happen now. I

think it is pride and caring about each other in whatever form you decide to show it. I hope this comes across in the right way, and somehow changes the way some of you feel. It wasn't easy to write, and I'm sure there will be ridicule from some folks. Thank Goodness I'm used to it! (Tradition, I guess) Thanks for reading.



On June 3, Chief Denlinger was elected the 2004 Chair of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Sections of the IAFC/NFPA during its annual conference in Sacramento, California.

The Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Section is part of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the National Fire Protection Association.

Organized in 1965, the goal of the IAFC is to bring together Fire Chiefs from larger agencies to share information and expertise to assist in the furtherance of the Fire Service. The current membership stands at over 12,000 members of senior fire officials worldwide.

Congratulations, Chief Denlinger!

SAFETY NOTES

Did you know?

As your speed increases, so does centrifugal force in the road curves. As your speed doubles, centrifugal force quadruples.

Fire apparatus with a high center of gravity carrying live loads will lean and increase the weight transfer, possibly resulting in a rollover.

Skid control: foot off brake and gas pedals, and countersteer!

Air bags can deploy 20 minutes after battery cables are cut.

A person who weighs 175 lbs. in a vehicle at 35 mph has a force upon impact of 6,125 pounds. Please buckle up!

Assume that all approaching roadway traffic is out to get you, until proven otherwise.

Be safe out there!

HOSES DRENCH THE GUNS....AGAIN!

On Sunday March 7, the CCFES Firestorm again defeated the Cobb Police Enforcers by a score of 7-6 at McEachern High School. The annual Guns & Hoses Football Classic raised funds for the Cobb County "Shop With A Cop" Program and the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation. (Photos courtesy of Melissa Larson, Adam Storey, and Dale Townley)



Surrounded by teammates, Marcus Cromartie hoists the trophy following the win.



Head Coach Stoney Bowles revises a play.



Jeff Moss and Randy Crider leave the field after an offensive series.



Defensive Coordinator John Robinson maps out plays for Phillip Wilbur, Ryan Gillen, Ron Knight, Reggie Jenkins, and Steve Bentley.

2004 FIRESTORM:

Randy Crider
Nate Thomas
Reggie Jenkins
Marcus Cromartie
Terrance Roy
Sean Gray
Dana Atkinson
Kyle Williams
Chris Scott
Aaron Bennett
Robert Rogers

Marquise Scott
Jeff Moss
Brian Patterson
Ryan Gillen
Ron Knight
Jason Fox
Brent Busby
Jeremy Towns
Terrell Kinlaw
Jack Sorrells

Mike McIntosh
Steve Grogan
Kevin Lewis
Darnell Musgrove
Dale Townley
Scott Dodson
Phillip Wilbur
Matt DuPree
Charlie Zellers
Felecio McDowell
Adam Storey

Chris Boggs
Keith Schneider
Jon Frederick
Scott Millspaugh
Steven Bentley
David Blount
Brian Bartlett
Ian Martin
Matt Ereddia
Reggie Thurman
Coach Stoney Bowles

2004 STAR OF LIFE AWARDS

On May 17, fifty CCFES personnel were recognized for their lifesaving efforts during the past year at the Region III EMS Star of Life awards banquet. Members of CCFES comprised an astounding 18% of all the recipients in Region III, showing Cobb's commitment to saving lives. The Star of Life is awarded to pre-hospital care providers when their actions save the life of a patient in cardiopulmonary arrest, and is returned to a productive viable state. Way to go!



Robert Abercrombie
Sean Boggess
Brendan Busby
Gary Chastain
Marcus Cromartie

Nick Adams
Jeff Burris
David Byrd
Sean Cook
Stacy Dearborn

Shane Dorfman
Janet Etheridge
Karsten Green
John Grimes
Jerry Henegar

David Dwyer
Todd Graham
Jeffery Gregory
Richard Hart
(continued on page 2)